

*Application No. 10/583,966
Amendment dated June 10, 2010
Reply to Office Action of March 26, 2010*

*Docket No. 0649-1323PUS1
Art Unit: 3679
Page 15 of 21*

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Three sheets of Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 1-3) are attached at the end of this paper in order to designate first and second arc-shaped portions 33a, 33b, and arc-shaped openings 34o of retainer 20. No new matter has been added.

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REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claims 6 and 11 were previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, and 12-23 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, and 18 are amended, and claim 23 is added. Claims 1, 8, and 17 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Examiner Interview

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with the Applicants' Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

Amendments to the Drawings

Three sheets of Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 1-3) are attached at the end of this paper in order to designate first and second arc-shaped portions 33a, 33b, and arc-shaped openings 34o of retainer 20. No new matter has been added.

Information Disclosure Citation

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the IDS filed on April 14, 2010, by returning an initialed copy of the PTO/SB08 form filed therewith.

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Amendments to the Specification

In accordance with MPEP §608.01(q), the Applicants herewith submit a substitute specification in the above-identified application. Also included is a marked-up copy of the original specification which shows the portions of the original specification which are being added and deleted. The Applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification includes no new matter and that the substitute specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy of the original specification showing additions and deletions.

Because the number of amendments which are being made to the original specification would render it difficult to consider the case, or to arrange the papers for printing or copying, the Applicants have voluntarily submitted this substitute specification. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully requests that the substitute specification be entered into the application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Washizu (U.S. 4,997,216); and

Claims 9, 10, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Washizu in view of Morain (U.S. 4,772,052).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 8, and 17

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of **independent claims 1 and 8** has

been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a resin tube-equipped quick connector, including *inter alia*:

wherein the C-shaped retainer includes a retainer-side retaining engagement portion having first and second arc-shaped openings which are adapted to engage with a convex pipe-side engagement portion, formed on an outer peripheral surface of the mating pipe and spaced from an axial insertion-side end thereof, so as to fix the inserted mating pipe in the axial direction; and

when the mating pipe is fixed in an axial direction in the C-shaped retainer, and the C-shaped retainer is held in the connector body, the convex engagement portion of the mating pipe is visible when viewed through each of the first and second windows of the retainer holding portion.

In addition, **independent claim 17** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a resin tube-equipped quick connector, including *inter alia*

wherein the retainer holding portion includes first and second windows opening through opposite curved sides thereof,

wherein the retainer is a member adapted to be held in the retainer holding portion, and includes:

a first arc-shaped portion which projects outwardly into the first window of the retainer holding portion, and a second arc-shaped portion which projects outwardly into the second window of the retainer holding portion, and

a retainer-side retaining engagement portion having first and second arc-shaped recesses which are adapted to engage with a convex or concave pipe-side engagement portion, formed on an outer peripheral surface of the mating pipe and spaced from an axial insertion-side end thereof, so as to fix the inserted mating pipe in the axial direction; and

when the mating pipe is fixed in an axial direction in the retainer, and the retainer is held in the connector body, the first and second arc-shaped recesses engaging the convex or concave pipe-side engagement portion of the mating pipe are located under each of the first and second windows of the retainer holding portion.

Support for the novel features of **independent claims 1, 8, and 17** as amended, can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1-3.

Regarding the Washizu Reference

As can be seen in Washizi FIGS. 1 and 2, this document merely discloses pawl walls 5, 5' of the small diameter chamber 2 pressing against the swollen wall of pipe P.

While not used in the rejection of claims 1, 8, and 17, the Morain reference cannot make up for the deficiency of Washizu to teach or suggest the combination of elements now set forth in each of **independent claims 1, 8, and 17**.

Regarding the Morain Reference

This document merely discloses a retention wire 42 for holding the plug member 14 in the receptacle member 12 (See FIGS. 1-4.)

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of **independent claims 1, 8, and 17** is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Washizu and Morain.

Therefore, **independent claims 1, 8, and 17** are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 12, 13, and 18 have been amended to place them in better form, and dependent claim 23 has been added to include the subject matter deleted from claim 1.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

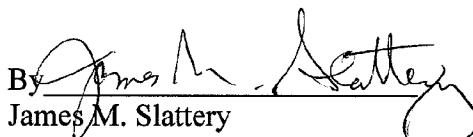
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: June 10, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 
James M. Slattery
Registration No.: 28,380
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments: Substitute Specification

Three sheets of Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 1-3). 

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